

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 TEL AV 08211 291502Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----089765 291504Z /11
O 291515Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3898
WHITE HOUSE IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T TEL AVIV 8211

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: OVIP (MODALE, WALTER F.)
SUBJECT: BEGIN SAYS GOI WILL RAISE MILITARY SUPPLY ISSUES
WITH THE VICE PRESIDENT

1. DURING MY MEETING WITH BEGIN JUNE 28, I ASKED HIM
WHAT QUESTIONS IN PARTICULAR HE AND HIS CABINET WISHED
TO FOCUS ON DURING TALKS WITH VICE PRESIDENT MONDALE.
HE MENTIONED ONLY ONE SPECIFICALLY.

2. BEGIN SAID THAT DEFENSE MINISTER WEIZMAN HAD BEEN
ASKED TO MAKE A BRIEF PRESENTATION AT THE MEETING WITH
THE VICE PRESIDENT SUNDAY AFTERNOON WHICH WOULD STRESS
THE NEED FOR DECISIONS ON PENDING ARMS SUPPLY QUESTIONS.
HE EMPHASIZED THAT IT HAD BEEN DECIDED TO INDULGE IN NO
RECRIMINATIONS ABOUT THE PAST, BUT TO FOCUS EXCLUSIVELY
ON THE PROBLEM OF FUTURE MILITARY BALANCE AND ITS IMPLI-
CATIONS FOR ISRAEL. HE SAID THAT IF THE VICE PRESIDENT
WAS NOT IN A POSITION TO GIVE ANY RESPONSES AT THIS TIME,
HE WOULD OF COURSE UNDERSTAND AND ASK THE VICE PRESIDENT
TO CONSULT WITH THE PRESIDENT AND THE SECRETARY OF
STATE ON HIS RETURN ABOUT THE ISSUES RAISED IN WEIZMAN'S
PRESENTATION. PREFIGURING WHAT I ASSUME WILL BE PART
OF WEIZMAN'S PITCH, BEGIN REFERRED TO TROUBLING EVENTS

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WHICH HAVE TAKEN PLACE SINCE THE APPROVAL BY THE SENATE
OF THE AIRCRAFT PACKAGE. HE MENTIONED A "HUGH ARMS
SALE" BY FRANCE TO SAUDI ARABIA, AS WELL AS NEW SOVIET
ARMS COMMITMENTS TO IRAQ AND SYRIA. HE ALSO RECALLED
THE PHRASE IN PRESIDENT CARTER'S LETTER AFTER THE ARMS
PACKAGE WAS PASSED ABOUT THE PRESIDENT'S DETERMINATION
THAT ISRAELI MILITARY SUPERIORITY IN THE REGION WOULD BE

MAINTAINED. HE HAS OBVIOUSLY ASKED WEIZMAN TO TAKE OFF
FROM THAT PHRASE AND TO PRESENT THE VICE PRESIDENT WITH
WHAT WILL BE NEEDED IN ISRAELI EYES TO CARRY IT OUT
IN THE NEXT FEW YEARS.
LEWIS

SECRET

NNN

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